

Appl. No. 09/932,503
Response to Office Action dated October 4, 2005
Page 2 of 7

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. Cancelled
2. Cancelled
3. Cancelled
4. Cancelled
5. Cancelled
6. Cancelled
7. Cancelled
8. Cancelled
9. Cancelled
10. Cancelled
11. Cancelled
12. (Previously presented) A method for delivering a therapeutic amount of a therapeutic agent to a patient in need thereof, comprising orally delivering one or more particles comprising:
 - (1) a core, comprising calcium phosphate;
 - (2) a therapeutic agent associated with the core; and
 - (3) a layer comprising casein at least partially covering and forming a protective coating that encapsulates the core.
13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of insulin, Alpha-1-Antitrypsin, Human Growth Hormone (HGH); Erythropoietin (EPO), Steroids, drugs to treat osteoporosis, blood coagulation factors, anti-cancer drugs, antibiotics, lipase, granulocyte-colony stimulating factor (G-

Appl. No. 09/932,503
Response to Office Action dated October 4, 2005
Page 3 of 7

CSF), Beta-Blockers, anti-asthma, anti-sense oligonucleotides, therapeutic antibodies, DNase enzyme for respiratory diseases, anti-inflammatory drugs, anti-virals, anti-hypertensives, cardiotherapeutics, anti-arrhythmia drugs, gene therapies; diuretics, anti-clotting chemicals, and any combination thereof.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the therapeutic agent is at least partially coated on the outside of the core, at least partially encapsulated within the core, or a combination of both.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising a surface modifying agent at least partially coated on the outside of the core, at least partially embedded within the core, or a combination of both.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the surface modifying agent is selected from the group consisting of basic sugars, modified sugars, polyethylene glycol, cellobiose, oligonucleotides, carbohydrates, carbohydrate derivatives, macromolecules with carbohydrate-like components, and combinations thereof.

17. (Previously presented) A method for delivering a therapeutic amount of insulin to a patient in need thereof, comprising orally delivering one or more particles comprising:

- (1) a core comprising calcium phosphate;
- (2) insulin associated with the core; wherein the insulin is at least partially encapsulated within the core, at least partially coated on the outside of the core, or a combination of both;
- (3) a layer comprising casein at least partially covering and forming a protective coating that encapsulates the core.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising polyethylene glycol associated with the core.

Appl. No. 09/932,503

Response to Office Action dated October 4, 2005

Page 4 of 7

19. (New) A therapeutic particle for use in the method of claim 12, the particle comprising:

- (1) a core comprising calcium phosphate;
- (2) a therapeutic agent associated with the core; and
- (3) a layer comprising casein at least partially covering and forming a protective coating that encapsulates the core.

20. (New) The therapeutic particle of claim 19, wherein the therapeutic agent is at least partially coated on the outside of the core, at least partially encapsulated within the core, or a combination of both.

21. (New) The therapeutic particle of claim 19, wherein the therapeutic agent comprises insulin.